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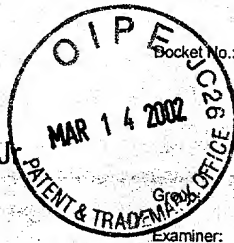
In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicants:

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Roland Columbus Smith, Jr.



Docket No.: 16184

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Filed:

December 14, 2001

For:

HIGH CAPACITY AND HIGH RATE ABSORBENT COMPOSITE

**Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney
Original U.S. Patent Application
Joint Inventors**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

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ORIGINALLY FILED

Sir:

As the below-named inventors, we hereby declare that:

Our respective residence addresses, post office addresses and citizenship designations are as stated below, next to our names.

We believe that we are the original, first and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought in the patent application entitled:

HIGH CAPACITY AND HIGH RATE ABSORBENT COMPOSITE

the specification of which was filed December 14, 2001.

We hereby state that each of us has reviewed and understands the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims and any accompanying drawings, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to in the oath or declaration.

We acknowledge our duty to disclose all information which is material to the patentability of this application as defined by 37 C.F.R. 1.56.

As the named inventors, we hereby appoint the attorneys and/or agents associated with Customer Number 23556 to prosecute this application and transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

We direct that all correspondence be addressed to the correspondence address associated with Customer Number 23556.

Our representative may be reached at: (770) 587-8646.

We hereby declare that:

1. All statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and
2. These statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent issued thereon.

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